(c) if so, the names of places alongwith States where such violation takes place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The minimum registered demand required for opening of a telephone Exchage is 10 provided the demand of the telephones at the place cannot be met from an existing exchange within the SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area). This condition is not being violated anywhere in the country.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to para (b) above.

Amount spent on MARR

†4599. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a telephone system was set up in the rural areas of the country under Multi Access Radio Reception System;

(b) if so, when this system was set up and the number of villages where this system was set up;

(c) the total amount spent on the same;

(d) whether information regarding the results of this system was gathered prior to its setting up; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The system was inducted in the rural network during year 1991. Village Public Telephones have been provided in 211,313 villages in the country on this system. Total amount incurred in setting up these systems in Rs. 1390.87 crores.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The decision to set up this system was taken after fields trials. The first field trial was conducted at Ballabhgarh,

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Haryana during March-April 1989. Based on the feedback of the first field trial, the system was upgraded and second field trial was conducted at Tuni, Andhra Pradesh during July, September 1989.

Expansion of postal communication network in Assam

4600. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for expansion of postal communication service network in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The targets for opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, Departmental Sub Post Offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras for expansion of postal communications service for the year 2000-2001 in the State of Assam are yet to be finalized.

(d) Post offices are opened subject to justification as per prescribed norms. The opening of new post offices depends upon availability of resources such as funds and sanctioning of posts by Ministry of Finance.

Replacement of MARR

†4601. DR. D. MASTHAN:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to replace the existing Multi Access Radio Reception System;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the new system with which this system is proposed to be replaced; and

(c) by when it is planned to the completed?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.